

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 04420 251349Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12
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R 251324Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO CNO WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4346
SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA
COMSIXTHFLT NAPLES IT
NAVSTA ROTA SP
CTF SIX ZERO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
USS NIMITZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 04420

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, SP
SUBJECT: NPW VISITS TO SPAIN

REF: (A) CINCUSNAVEUR 211709Z APR 78 (NOTAL)
(B) CNO 180035Z MAR 78

1. A REQUEST FOR A VISIT BY THE USS NIMITZ TO ROTA IN JULY (REF A) WOULD BE THE SECOND REQUEST FOR AN NPW VISIT TO ROTA EARLY IN THE SUMMER. REF B REQUESTED A VISIT BY THE USS SHARK (SSN-591) TO ROTA JUNE 26-29. THAT REQUEST HAS ALREADY BEEN FORMALLY ADDRESSED TO THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT AND WE ARE AWAITING A REPLY.

2. AS WE EARLIER MADE KNOWN TO CINCUSNAVEUR AND COMSIXTH-
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PAGE 02 MADRID 04420 251349Z

FLT IT HAD BEEN OUR INTENTION, ONCE WE HAD BEHIND US A SUCCESSFUL JOINT VISIT TO ROTA BY THE NIMITZ, CALIFORNIA AND SOUTH CAROLINA (SCHEDULED TO DEPART ROTA MAY 2), TO MAKE ANOTHER FORCEFUL REQUEST OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT TO OPEN UP A MEDITERRANEAN PORT FOR AN NPW VISIT. WE WOULD PROPOSE TO DO THIS BY AGAIN ADDRESSING OURSELVES TO PALMA AND BARCELONA BUT, RECOGNIZING THE NEAR IMPOSSIBILITY

OF SPANISH GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT TO THE USE OF THOSE PORTS AT THIS TIME, WE WOULD ALSO PROPOSE AS AN ALTERNATIVE A VISIT EARLY IN THE SUMMER TO CARTAGENA. CARTAGENA IS THE ONLY MEDITERRANEAN PORT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN ANY HOPE WHATSOEVER BY SENIOR SPANISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THIS REFLECTS THE HEAVY SPANISH NAVY PRESENCE THERE AND THE CITY'S NOT BEING AN IMPORTANT CENTER OF TOURISM.

3. TO REQUEST NOW A VISIT TO ROTA OF THE USS NIMITZ IN JULY MIGHT LEAD SPANISH OFFICIALS, WHO HAVE IN THE PAST SUGGESTED THAT NPW VISITS BE SPACED ROUGHLY TWO MONTHS APART, TO TURN DOWN A CARTAGENA REQUEST ON PURELY PROCEDURAL GROUNDS.

4. WE WOULD RECOMMEND, IF THIS IS CONVENIENT FOR U.S. NAVAL AUTHORITIES, THAT WE HOLD OFF MAKING ANY REQUEST FOR A VISIT BY THE NIMITZ UNTIL WE HAVE HAD THE CHANCE DURING THE MONTH OF MAY TO PURSUE THIS OTHER LINE OF ATTACK. IN THIS RESPECT, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING YOUR RECOMMENDATION OF A SMALLER SURFACE SHIP, SUCH AS A CGN, WHICH WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO VISIT CARTAGENA IN JUNE/JULY, SINCE WE BELIEVE SUCH A SHIP WOULD HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF SPANISH GOVERNMENT APPROVAL THAN EITHER A CARRIER OR SUBMARINE. STABLER

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